

Testimony of Jahmil Effend
Eastern Connecticut State University Student
Appropriations Committee
February 15, 2017

Members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Jahmil Effend. I am a senior at Central Connecticut State University, double majoring in Accounting and Management, graduating in May. Last April, I was voted President of the Student Government Association and was awarded the David A. Ross Student Leader of the Year Award. During my time at Central I have been a Program Director, Lead Orientation Leader, Student Ambassador, a club President, the chair of countless committees, a student worker and a proud member of the Blue Devil Community. Central Connecticut State University has given me the opportunity to develop into a person who I would not otherwise be able to become.

I grew up the middle child of six with a mother on welfare. Add in the early childhood glaucoma and cataract eye surgeries and you'll see my childhood was not easy. My oldest brother has been in and out of prison, while my sisters have both done time as strippers. My father is a former felon and my mother never finished the 9th grade. These were my role models growing up.

I became the first to go to college and I can gladly say that education saved my life. Higher Education has given me the platform to change the direction of not only my life, but my family's. Through the phenomenal mentorship of the faculty and staff as well as the continued focus on my academic success, I have been placed in the position where I will become the first in my family to graduate college.

Higher Education does more than just open doors, it saves lives. I strongly believe that success is the magnitude of the beneficial footprint you leave on society. It truly is how many people you impact and how many lives you can effect that matters most. Our Higher Education system is successful. I love Central Connecticut State University and I will forever be indebted to that institution for what it has given me.